

## **UCS Stats for Website (data from 2019/2020 school year)**

### Overview

The Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools program is aimed at promoting social inclusion through intentionally planned and implemented activities affecting systems-wide change. With sports as the foundation, the three component model offers a unique combination of effective activities that equip young people with tools and training to create sports, classroom and school climates of acceptance. These are school climates where students with disabilities feel welcome and are routinely included in, and feel a part of, all activities, opportunities and functions.

This is accomplished by implementing inclusive sports, inclusive youth leadership opportunities, and whole school engagement. The program is designed to be woven into the fabric of the school, enhancing current efforts and providing rich opportunities that lead to meaningful change in creating a socially inclusive school that supports and engages all learners. What a Unified Champion School “looks like” can vary greatly from school to school, based on the needs, goals, schedules and other factors unique to each school; but the basic building blocks remain the same.

### In NM 2019/2020

36 schools (before COVID)

12 Elementary

11 Middle

11 High

1 K12

1 College

516 Athletes Participated

636 Partners participated

11 different sports

25 total events

## Banner Schools

Picacho Middle School (Las Cruces) 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020

Sierra Middle School (Las Cruces) 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020

La Cueva High School (Albuquerque) 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020

John Baker Elementary School (Albuquerque) 2018-2019, 2019-2020

Valley View Elementary School (Las Cruces) 2018-2019

Lincoln Middle School (Rio Rancho) 2019-2020

Mayfield High School (Las Cruces) 2019-2020

Manzano High School (Albuquerque) 2018-2019, 2019-2020

A Special Olympics Unified Champion School® demonstrating commitment to inclusion by meeting 10 standards of excellence receives national banner recognition.

A national banner school has achieved the following standards:

1 Unified Sports is offered in at least 2 seasons throughout the school year.

2 Unified Sports participation occurs regularly over the course of each sport season or school term and includes competition.

3 An adult coach for each sport who has received training on Special Olympics Unified Sports.

4 Unified Sports is officially recognized by the school in a similar style as other athletics/activities.

5 A Unified Club or student group offers leadership opportunities/training for students with and without intellectual disabilities.

6 The inclusive club/group meets at least once per month throughout the school year.

7 The inclusive club/group has an adult liaison and is officially recognized by the school in a similar style as other clubs/activities.

8 At least two whole-school engagement activities are implemented per school year.

9 Students with and without disabilities are involved with planning and leading the awareness activities.

10 The school is currently self-sustainable or has a plan in place to sustain the three components into the future

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANg4TCr9XT0> John Baker Banner  
Presentation Video

#### To get started

Find someone at your school interested in working with students to build sports skills.

Email Rebecca Whitlock at [Rebecca@sonm.org](mailto:Rebecca@sonm.org)

Complete registration and funding application

UCS Resource Page <https://resources.specialolympics.org/community-building/youth-and-school/unified-champion-schools>

Generation Unified Page <https://www.generationunified.org/>

#### Young Athletes

Special Olympics Young Athletes is an early childhood play program for children with and without intellectual disabilities, ages 2 to 7 years old. Young Athletes introduces basic sport skills, like running, kicking and throwing. Young Athletes offers families, teachers, caregivers and people from the community the chance to share the joy of sports with all children.

Young Athletes provides children of all abilities the same opportunities to advance in core developmental milestones. Children learn how to play with others and develop important skills for learning. Children also learn to share, take turns and follow directions. These skills help children in family, community and school activities.

Young Athletes is a fun way for children to stay active and establish healthy habits for the future. It is important to teach children healthy habits while they are young. This can set the stage for a life of physical activity, friendships and learning. Young Athletes is easy to do and fun for all. It can be done at home, in schools or in the community using the [Young Athletes Activity Guide](#) and basic equipment. Through Young Athletes, all children, their families and people in the community can be a part of an inclusive team.

Young Athletes welcomes children and their families into the world of Special Olympics.

- **Motor skills.** Children with intellectual disabilities who took part in Young Athletes developed motor skills more than twice as fast as others who did not take part.
- **Social, emotional and learning skills.** Parents and teachers of children who took part in the Young Athletes curriculum said the children learned skills that they will use in pre-primary school.
- **Expectations.** Family members say that Young Athletes raised their hopes for their child's future.
- **Sport readiness.** Young Athletes helps children get ready to take part in sports when they are older.
- **Acceptance.** Inclusive play helps children without a disability to better understand and accept others.

YA resource page [https://resources.specialolympics.org/sports-essentials/young-athletes?\\_ga=2.206805136.2091122652.1594220130-465886531.1567624796](https://resources.specialolympics.org/sports-essentials/young-athletes?_ga=2.206805136.2091122652.1594220130-465886531.1567624796)